

GERMAN ADVANCE HELD IMPOSSIBLE

Invaders in Force Must
Either "Dig In" for
Winter or Retreat.

NOT SO EASY TO
GET HOME, EITHER

Tribune Correspondent Tells of
Observations on Trip
to Nancy.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.

(Tribune Correspondent of The New York Tribune.)

Nancy, Dec. 12.—It's a long way to Paris at two minutes past midnight and arrived at the ancient capital of Lorraine twenty-nine hours later. The journey in time of peace occupies six hours. The train left sharp on time, the only punctual thing it did on its long and apparently difficult career. After taking fifteen hours to reach Pagny-sur-Meuse, it missed connection, entailing a trifling wait of five and one-half hours. As we are in a state of siege, all the station buffets closed at 8 o'clock. The passengers, most of them refugees, from villages formerly held by the Germans, returning to their homes, were practically starving. One reason for the length of the journey is that the route is established according to military necessities for more than a hundred miles from Dormans to Nancy. The train is never more than twenty miles, and generally less, from the German lines. This entails all kinds of detours, and the passengers are never allowed to forget the fact, as every time a train stops at a station the boom of guns can be heard. During the five hours I stopped at Pagny-sur-Meuse the thunder of heavy batteries barely seven miles away never ceased for five minutes at a time. All along the line the French positions were daily increased in strength.

German Can't Advance.
The trenches are strongly manned and the thousands of troops kept in reserve will paralyze the forward movements of the Germans. Rheims, Epervan, Châlons-sur-Marne, Saint-Menehould and Verdun will dispose of any force and render any attempt by the Germans to break through completely hopeless. Of this they must be well aware.

Scores of German aeroplanes which daily sweep over the French lines can take back only the most discouraging reports, but the French are leaving nothing to chance. Fresh lines of trenches are being constructed daily. Inferiority in heavy artillery, which characterized the French army in the beginning of the war, no longer exists, and new French guns are rapidly putting the much vaunted German batteries out of action. The French staff is of the opinion that when the Germans are convinced that an attack in the north has completely failed, a movement to retreat will begin. The only point in doubt is the direction in which it will take place.

The Germans have in France at least two million men, with probably the most formidable war material the world has ever seen. Transport of this by rail would require at least 4,000 trains. With a train every half hour the retreat would take more than two months. It is out of the question that the main body should retreat to Belgium. That country is a wilderness in which the troops could find neither food nor shelter. The French military authorities are convinced that the main line of retreat will be via Chateau-Thierry and that a formidable effort will once more be made in that region. Nothing therefore has been neglected to prepare to meet it.

Fighting Line Impregnable.
The fighting line from Rheims to Belfort via Châlons-sur-Marne, Saint-Menehould and Verdun is practically impregnable. It looks as if an effort would be made between Soissons and Reims, but the very fact that circumstances force the Germans to such an obvious course will probably condemn it to failure in advance. The only solution is that the Germans should decide to give up all idea of the offensive, even as a preliminary to retreat, and should "dig themselves in" in the north as they have in the east and pass the winter on French territory in the hope that long drawn out war may wear out French patience and lead to discouragement. If they entertain this theory they are much mistaken as to the resolution of the French army in Nancy. The resolution is to "see the thing through" at any cost.

Nancy is the extreme outpost town of French territory, a few miles from the German frontier. It is an open town, without fortifications, and the Germans are the bayonets of the French soldiers. The Division de Ferme, Division probably the most composed of the most severely trained troops in the world. The occupation of Nancy by the Germans on the outbreak of the war was always discounted by the French General Staff, and the town, if it would have had no strategic or tactical influence on the result of the campaign.

The fact that attack was actually begun under the personal direction of the Kaiser and almost immediately abandoned is regarded as additional proof that the German plan has failed all along the line.

**FRENCH CABINET
VOTES WAR CREDITS**

Paris, Dec. 12.—President Poincaré presided over a meeting of the French Cabinet this morning at the Palace of the Elisee. All the ministers were present, with the exception of the Minister of War, Alexandre Millerand, who is at Bordeaux. A decree was signed setting December 22 as the date of the opening of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

The Minister of Finance, Alexandre Ribot, explained the bill referring to provisional monthly credits, after which the Cabinet decided to request Parliament to vote six provisional monthly credits, in order to avoid the national defense having to exist from hand to mouth, and so on at the armed forces may be able to continue the war with necessary energy.

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Official Report of French War Office

Paris, Dec. 12.—The French official communication issued this evening states: "There is no new incident to report."

The text of the afternoon communication follows:
"The enemy has completed the evacuation of the west bank of the Yser Canal to the north of the house of the ferryman, and we occupy this bank."

"In the region of Arras there have been artillery engagements. In the region of Namptel our batteries have reduced to silence the batteries of the enemy. In the region of the Aisne our heavy artillery silenced the field batteries of the Germans. At a point northeast of Vailly one of their batteries of howitzers was completely destroyed."

"In the region of Perthes and in the vicinity of the forest of La Gurie there have been artillery engagements and some infantry fighting, which resulted advantageously to us."
"On the heights of the Meuse the artillery of the enemy showed little activity. On the contrary, our artillery demolished at Deuxnouds, to the west of Vigneulles-les-Hattonchâtel, two batteries of the enemy, one composed of guns of large calibre and the other used for firing upon aviators. In this same region we have blown up a block-house and destroyed several trenches."

"Between the Meuse and the Moselle there is nothing to report, and in the Vosges there have been artillery engagements. In the region of Senones we have consolidated the positions gained by us the evening before."

"Russia: In the region of Mlawia violent attacks on the part of the Germans have been repulsed, and the Russians have again taken the offensive against columns of the enemy that are retiring in disorder. In the region to the north of Lowicz ferocious German attacks have been also everywhere repulsed with heavy losses for them."

"In the region south of Cracow the Russian offensive has been successfully continued in spite of a stubborn resistance."

"In Serbia: The Serbian armies, which had reached the Kolubara River, have crossed this stream between the Valjevo, which has been occupied by them, and the junction of the Ljilj. To the north they have occupied Lazarevac. The number of prisoners taken by the Serbians in the course of these recent engagements reached the total of about 18,000 men."

**German Army
Official Report**

Berlin, Dec. 12 (by wireless to London).—The German official statement today says:

"On the East Prussian frontier our cavalry repulsed Russian cavalry, and we took 340 prisoners."

"South of the Vistula and in Northern Poland our operations are developing."

"In Southern Poland Russian attacks have been repulsed by Austro-Hungarian and German troops."

"In Flanders the French yesterday made attacks in the region of Langemark, which, however, were repulsed. They lost 200 men in killed and we took 440 prisoners."

"Our artillery bombarded the Ypres railroad station to interfere with the movements of the enemy's troops."

"We have made some progress near Arras."

"French troops again attacked us near Souain-Perthes, but without success."

"In the Argonne Forest the French for weeks have limited themselves to very weak attacks, and they everywhere have been repulsed. On the other hand, German troops have again taken possession of an important French position of support by means of the explosion of a mine. The enemy has suffered heavy losses in killed, and many of their troops have been so severely shaken as to be unable to fight any longer. Moreover, we took 200 prisoners near Apremont. South of St. Mihiel repeated stubborn French attacks were repulsed, as were also other attacks in the vicinity of Marikich."

**GERMAN FLEET MAY
BE FORCED TO ACT**

Between Ricks of Acting
Too Soon or Too Late,
Says Garvin.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Dec. 12.—Writing in "The Observer" on the German fleet's failure to aid in creating a world empire and on German colonial losses, J. L. Garvin says:

"This is already a heavy and bitter price to pay in territorial loss alone for the violation and seizure of little Belgium; nor is it within any human probability that Germany will again possess one foot of ground overseas until she has first evacuated every foot of what she holds in Belgium and north France, and, beyond that, has made final forfeits. That is why the main German fleet may resolve at any moment desperately to contest the main issue. It is in a dilemma, exposed to peril in any event, and divided between the huge risks of acting too soon and the equal but more discouraging risks of waiting too long."

"The destruction of the Scharnhorst and the Kneiselsaat, with the recent activity, and the force of the British naval policy on the coast of Flanders may help to hasten the decision in a more prompt and daring sense. Otherwise the relative energy and resources of the British navy, moved by the Fisher spirit, are more likely to keep on increasing."

**FIRE DESTROYS BIG
GERMAN BARRACKS**

Copenhagen (via London), Dec. 12.—News has been received here that a great German barracks, near Kiel, have been completely destroyed by fire.

The Gottorp barracks are about twenty-five miles northwest of Kiel, on an island which lies between the Schlei and Burg See. The old ducal Schloss Gottorp is the main building of these barracks.

2,000,000 FRENCH TROOPS NOW READY

Germany Steadily Losing
Advantage in Numbers
Held at Start.

MOBILIZED ALREADY
NEARLY TO LAST MAN

Superiority in Quality of His
Soldiers Was General Joffe's
First Demand.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.

(Paris Correspondent of The New York Tribune.)

Paris, Dec. 12.—Since the beginning of the war Germany has possessed one superiority over France—that of numbers. Germany, with peace, has an active army of 700,000 men, and passed each year 850,000 into the reserve, while France, with peace, has an active army of barely half a million and was able only to accumulate reserves at the rate of 250,000 men a year.

As a consequence Germany was able to put a large number of young reservists in the field. In order to put an army of equal numbers in the field the French government would have had to send to the front men four or five years older than the German contingents, men who had in that time lost to a corresponding degree. With the army these men are in no way inferior to the men of the active army. They, however, require a month or two of stiff training to bring back their military efficiency.

Joffre Wanted Quality.

General Joffre showed his confidence in his army by resolutely undertaking the struggle with inferior numbers on his side. He relied on the superiority of quality over mere quantity, and hurried ever fresh levies into the fighting line. The reserves and landwehr were mobilized, and four weeks ago the landsturm, or levee en masse, composed of boys from seventeen to twenty and men from forty-five to sixty was incorporated.

Germany has shot her bolt. She has realized the Kaiser's phrase: "The last man," in his proclamation at the beginning of the war. His majesty also added "last horse." This may come, too, if all stories of the condition of the German cavalry, artillery and baggage train are true. Now the tables are being turned, and France is producing trained soldiers by the hundreds of thousands with a precision and regularity that would inspire respect even in a Pomeranian unteroffizier.

A million and a half men of the territorialists who have been in training since the declaration of war are now fit and ready to take their places in the fighting line. In addition to the younger element, men without family ties, as the middle aged territorialists, who can be depended on for a bayonet charge and who bring into the grim work of war the enthusiasm of youth have been incorporated.

A contingent of 1914, 250,000 strong, which should have joined the color in November, but was prematurely called out in August, last week completed its training and left for the fighting line. Their places in the training depots were at once taken by a contingent of 1915, which has been called out one year before its time, as many men of that contingent volunteered for service as soon as war was declared. It numbers only 220,000, as compared with 250,000 of the class of 1914. It will be ready for the field in March, when it will be succeeded by the class of 1916.

With the territorialists and the new contingents France is therefore in a position to pour 2,000,000 fresh troops, which have not yet fired a shot, into the fighting line. England is pouring hundreds of thousands of men into France and has 1,500,000 under training. The Allies are thus increasing their strength every day while Germany has mobilized her last man and is now fighting a desperate defensive battle. Every town in France, from Marseilles to Dunkirk, is gorged with troops, either training or waiting orders to go to the front. In the last fortnight I have visited the principal centres on the French frontier and on the fighting line. At Chateau Thierry, Dormans, Rheims, Epervan, Monchenot, Châlons-sur-Marne, Vitry-le-François, Barle-Duc, Toul and Nancy the same spirit prevails. The men of every category, young and old, are equally desirous of being sent to the front. The spirit animating the territorial force—that is to say, the men of middle age—is one of grim determination, while that of the young contingent is one of youthful enthusiasm, which will swell the bayonet and the lutte when they get within striking distance of the Germans.

**CLEMENCEAU LAUDS
AMERICAN OPINION**

Fairest of All the Neutral
Nations, French States-
man Declares.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Paris, Dec. 12.—In the course of an interesting summing up of the appreciations and opinions of the leading men of the neutral powers, Senator Clemenceau today declared that the nation shows so fair, just and equitable a judgment as that expressed clearly and fearlessly by the public men of the United States. M. Clemenceau reproduces in his paper, "L'Homme Libre," ("The Man in Fetters"), the views of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Professor White, Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus, and President Lowell, of Harvard University, and Major Charles H. Sherrill, ex-minister to Argentina, whose opinions on the Russian wedding of Jews and Muscovites are heartily endorsed by the veteran French statesman.

M. Clemenceau attaches vital importance to the necessity pointed out by Senator Lodge that this war must absolutely be fought to a finish. Any patched-up peace would mean another war just as soon as Prussianized German militarism could recover and get its second wind to begin again. Meanwhile, M. Clemenceau, like all leading Frenchmen, warns the public that it must be a very long struggle.

In spite of popular illusions concerning the duration of the war, the French military critics frankly admit that with ten French departments occupied by 2,000,000 German soldiers and with the main issue in the eastern theatre of the war still pending on Russian-Polish soil, it would be criminal for Frenchmen to think of peace. Because of the struggle being judged today from the standard of a prize ring, an umpire at the present juncture could not do otherwise than give Germany a victory on points. The French public recognizes that Germany still is very much in the ring, although showing signs of getting groggy, but the average Frenchman is firmly determined that the struggle shall not be ended with a mere decision "on points," but must be fought to a knockout.

NO ANILINE OIL FOR EXPORTATION

London, Dec. 12.—A special issue of "The Official Gazette" proclaims the complete prohibition of the exportation of aniline oil, aniline salt and picric acid and its components to all destinations.

This announcement amends the proclamation of November 10, which permitted the exportation of these articles to the United States and to European ports of the Allies.

It was only after considerable effort on the part of Consul General Skinner that the British government in its decree of November consented to allow aniline oil to go to America.

It's a Long Walk to the War.
Montreal, Dec. 12.—A walk of 1,800 miles to the nearest railway station to report for military service—such was the recent jaunt of Fernand Tromeur, of Fort Providence, on the Mackenzie River. Tromeur is one of twenty-five French reservists, mostly from

the Yukon and Alaska, who left here last night for New York to sail tomorrow on the steamer Rochambeau for Havre.

**GERMAN VESSEL, OIL
LADEN, IS CAPTURED**

London, Dec. 12.—A German steamer, with a cargo of 7,000 tons of oil, proceeding to Italy from the United States, has been seized at Gibraltar by a British warship, according to reports received here from Berlin.

SWEDEN INCENSED AT GERMAN REPLY

Stockholm, Dec. 12.—Germany's reply to Sweden's request for an explanation of the laying of mines by Germany, by which three Swedish vessels were blown up, is considered far from satisfactory by the Swedish press, according to the "Aftonbladet." The answer denies that German

ships laid mines on Saturday or Sunday, but says nothing concerning previous days. It admits that, owing to the intention of Russian to establish a winter naval base, German mines were laid in the Aland Archipelago "later than Sunday," of which Sweden was notified on Monday. That was after the Swedish ships were sunk.

Loulsburg, N. S., Dec. 12.—Scores of floating mines were passed the first day out from Rotterdam by the oil tank steamer American, which put in here to-day for coal, on her way to New York.



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